

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-indicated patent application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 26, 2004.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 6-59 had been rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Vasic et al. (U.S. P.C. Pub. No. 2003/0021417). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

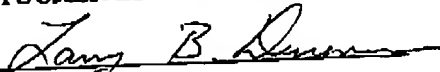
It is respectfully noted that the Vasic et al. reference is a published application with a filing date of May 12, 2002. The present application has a filing date of April 17, 2001. Therefore, it should be plain that Vasic et al. is not 102 prior art as applied to the present claims. It is further noted that Vasic et al. is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/693,605, filed October 20, 2000. It should be appreciated that, as a CIP application, the Vasic et al. reference includes only a portion of disclosure that can draw from this earlier date. And it is not clear from this citation or from the outstanding rejection which portion(s) of the reference may have an earlier date than the present application. Therefore, it is not established that this reference and the cited portions relied upon do in fact anticipate the present claims. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the burden of proof has not been met in this outstanding rejection. Since an earlier date cannot be established on the outstanding rejection, it is respectfully submitted that the claims distinguish over the Vasic et al. reference. Withdrawal of this rejection and an indication of allowability is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the present claims, as currently amended, distinguish over the prior art. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters, which need to be discussed in order to

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expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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